

**THE JONES LIBRARY, INC. MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, AND NORTH
AMHERST LIBRARY**
Fiscal Year 2003

Our mission: The Jones Library strives to stimulate and support the civic and cultural life of all people of our region by:

♦ ***Providing access to materials***

Amherst Town libraries are well known for their wide selection of the best and the latest fiction and information. In Fiscal Year 2003 readers and students borrowed more library materials than ever before – 565,257 books and recordings. People used over \$1,000,000 worth of library materials each month. Library users responded enthusiastically to a new online reservation service that allowed them to request materials from 140 library collections at the click of a mouse. “Patron-placed holds” brought books, CD’s, and videos from all over central and western Massachusetts to Amherst residents at no extra charge.

The Adult Services department initiated the “Books and More To Your Door” delivery service for homebound readers. Staffed by volunteers, the service provided books, videos, and books on tape to people whose health would not allow a visit to the library.

In response to the growing diversity of languages spoken in Amherst, Jones Library successfully applied for a federal grant to expand collections of materials in Chinese, Korean, Khmer and Spanish. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded \$16,600 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds for the “Community Languages” project. In addition, the Kanegasaki Public Library in Amherst’s Japanese Sister City donated 100 children’s books in Japanese to the children’s collections.

♦ ***Assisting people in their quest for information***

A generous grant of \$52,355 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation greatly expanded public access to information over the Internet. Fourteen new computers arrived in March 2003 loaded with Microsoft application software, children’s learning games, and educational databases ready to connect to the Internet. Twenty library staff members received training in computer use as part of the statewide Gates grant program. These fast new computers have attracted new users to the Munson, North Amherst, and Jones Libraries.

“Get a CLUE” computer classes, originally funded with a federal LSTA grant, continued with Town funding throughout fiscal year 2003. Sixty-eight free classes were offered in beginning computer skills, beginning word processing, and beginning spreadsheet applications. The library’s goal is to help everyone learn to use a computer to find information, especially folks who do not have a computer of their own.

The English as a Second Language Center matched seventy tutors and students during the year to work on basic English language skills. Fifty students received application support and/or test preparation for their U.S. citizenship test. ESL volunteers not only worked with students one on one, they also organized a beginning-level English class in the summer, an advanced-level culture and literature class, and the citizenship test preparation series. In exchange for the help they received, several ESL students have volunteered their time at the library.

♦ ***Preserving the history of our community***

Special Collections welcomed researchers of all ages, from second-grade classes in local elementary schools to academic specialists traveling from around the world. Online catalog access to historical materials continued to expand, with 7,800 records available over the Internet through the C/W MARS catalog by July 1, 2003.

Thousands of visitors toured permanent exhibits on the lives of Amherst's famous poets. Paintings and watercolors by writer and artist Mabel Loomis Todd were displayed in conjunction with the Todd exhibit at the Amherst History Museum. For the Emily Dickinson International Society's conference in Amherst, the Department displayed musical scores of Emily Dickinson's poems, enhancing its musical theme. One of the program highlights of the year was a unique evening of poetry hosted by Special Collections during National Poetry Month. "Emily Dickinson: an Appreciation" presented nationally known writers Joseph Langland, Henry Lyman, and Jane Yolen reading their favorite Dickinson poems for a delighted audience.

♦ ***Serving as a meeting place for the community's educational and cultural pursuits***

The Jones Library meeting rooms welcomed discussions and events on topics ranging from presidential politics to the outstanding new jubilat/Jones Poetry Series. Children and adults attended 324 activities presented by library staff at the three libraries, including children's story time, family singing programs, chess clubs, musical performances, and hands-on science activities. Prize-winning poets James Tate and Dara Wier were among the dozen talented readers who contributed their creative energies to the poetry series. A panel of four mystery writers and local authors Nancy Hope Wilson, Michael Tougas, and Cynthia Barstow connected with their audiences at the library.

Local organizations and individuals reserved rooms for 519 community meetings/events at the Jones Library. Nineteen local artists displayed their creative artwork in the Burnett Gallery. The Town and the Library celebrated the signing of the "Sister Libraries" declaration between the Jones Library and the Kanegasaki Public Library. It was an honor to welcome Norio Takahashi, Mayor of Amherst's sister city; Masayasu Kuwashima, Library Director; and Mamoru Kikuchi, Chairman of the Kanegasaki Town Assembly.

Thank you for your support!

Library staff and Trustees are sincerely grateful to the 105 wonderful volunteers who assisted with library programs and services. The Friends of the Jones Library System deserve special recognition for donating \$12,040 for public programs and \$14,455 for books, magazines, CD's, videotapes, and a variety of equipment. Not only did they raise much-needed funds for new projects; their fund-raising events were lots of fun!

The Trustees Annual Fund Drive reached a new level, raising \$30,000 from 509 supporters, money that is critically needed for the operating budget. Two new businesses made important contributions to the library: the Greenfield Savings Bank began the Civic Action Account program, promoting Town Libraries, and the Harp Bar and Restaurant donated \$975 from its "Trivia Fund" to support the North Amherst Library. Donations, large and small, helped buy books to keep the libraries up to date.

Endowment Balances. Fleet Investment Advisors was re-named Columbia Management Advisors during the fiscal year. The market value of the Jones Library, Incorporated Endowment Fund declined from \$7,812,532 at the start of the fiscal year to \$7,455,373 as of June 30, 2003.

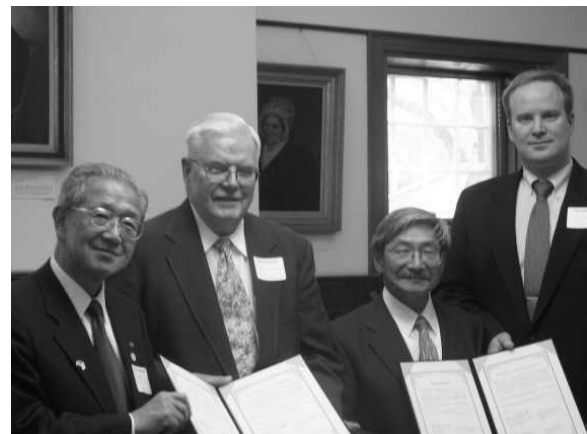
LIBRARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Materials Loaned--FY 2003	
TOTAL	565,257
Jones – Adults	305,134
Jones – Kids	173,938
Munson Memorial	44,633
North Amherst Library	41,552

Research Assistance--FY 2003	
TOTAL	39,452
Jones-Adults	19,448
Jones-Kids	8,750
Special Collections	3,071
Branch Libraries	7,733
ESL Center	450

Materials Available June 30, 2003	
Books	204,082
Audio & Video Items	21,596
Other materials	530
Added during FY 2003	9,800
Donations added	1,694
Withdrawn in FY 2003	3,693

Amherst Residents with C/W MARS cards, June 30, 2003	
Adults	21,545
Children	3,624
New Borrowers registered in FY 2003	2,672



"Sister Libraries"
Mayor Norio Takahashi, Trustee John
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Kuwashima, Select Board Chairman
Carl Seppala

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Ann Grose, Trustee
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LIBRARY STAFF

Bonnie Isman, Library Director
Sondra Radosh, Asst. Director &
Children's Librarian
Amy Anaya, Circulation Librarian
Beth Girshman, Adult Services Librarian
Susan Hugus, Munson Memorial Librarian
Rosemary Loomis, Reference Librarian
Tevis Kimball, Curator of Special
Collections
Pauline Peterson, Reference Librarian
Carolyn Platt, Head of Technical Services
Maggie Spiegel, North Amherst Librarian

Lynne Weintraub, ESL Coordinator
Henry Allan, Computer Technician
Tina Swift, Administrative Assistant
Chris White, Cataloging Technician
John Imbimbo, Building Supervisor
Kate Boyle, Special Collections Assistant
Silvia Brinkerhoff, Children's Library
Assistant
Miguel Otero, Assistant Custodian
John Power, Assistant Custodian
Seth Rothberg, Assistant Circulation
Supervisor
Lace Stokes, Sunday Supervisor
Cathy Verts, Audiovisual Technician
Theresa Atteridge, Library Assistant
Laurie Holbrook, Office Clerk/Receptionist
Margot Gilfeather, Library Assistant
Ralph Hurwitz, AV Assistant
Judy Lincoln, Library Assistant
Ron'na Lytle, Library Assistant
Joan Pyfrom, Cataloging Assistant

PART-TIME STAFF: Sarah Aronow-Werner, Jane Babcock, Christine Bluhm, Molly-Beth Brown, Nonny Burack, Margaret Burrows, Ellen Carey, Laura Castano-Longley, Catherine Cooper, Elizabeth Cook, Janice Doyama, Lianna Girshman, Bryan Grabigel, Toni Hochstadt, Jean Holden, Nicholas Kaiser, Karen Kappenmen, Karen Kowles, Jessica Lamson, Robin Levine, Sheila McCormick, Susan McCoy, Joanne McGee, Barbara McGlynn, Wanda Meck, Julia Moore-Diaz, Luz Oquendo, Kristen Powlick Williams, Janet Ryan, Lisa Slocum, Dorothy Thornton, Valerie Vaughn, Chris Vigorito, Ben Ware, Mary Weidensaul, Linda Wentworth, Chani West-Foyle, plus college work/study student helpers.

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